

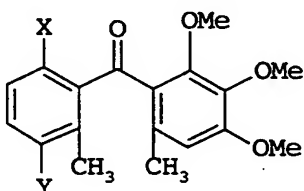
## Preparation of benzophenones

## Abstract

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A process for preparing benzophenones of the formula I,

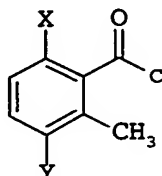
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I

15 where X may be chlorine, hydroxyl, methoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, and Y may be chlorine or bromine, by reacting an acid chloride of the formula II

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II

25 where X and Y are as defined above with 3,4,5-trimethoxytoluene, which comprises carrying out the reaction in the presence of

- a) an aromatic hydrocarbon as a diluent and
- 30 b) from 0.01 to 0.2 mol% of an iron catalyst, based on the acid chloride,
- c) at a temperature between 60°C and the boiling point of the particular diluent.

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